



AmeriCorps IN Action

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Governor Mitch Daniels delivers remarks at the Open Ceremony.

2006 Governor's Conference On Service and Volunteerism

On April 10th and 11th, the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, in partnership with the Governor's Office and Indiana Department of Education, hosted 2006 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism. Over 700 people attended the event held at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriot.

Governor Mitch Daniels and Lt. Governor Becky Skillman were present to offer their support and guidance during the conference. Representatives, from many organizations, were in attendance including AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps *VISTA, Corporation for National and Community Service, Senior Corps, Citizen Corps, and many more. Over the course of two days, attendees attended sessions from nine conference tracks. Overall, eighty-nine

sessions were held ranging from topics of career enhancement to homeland security

On the evening of April 10, an Award's Dinner was held to honor recipients of 2006 Governor's Award for Excellence in Service and Volunteerism. While Liz Seale, Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service announced the winners, Dr. David Reingold, Chairman of the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism, and Jim Towey presented awards to the winners.

Jim Towey, Director of the White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives delivered the keynote address. His speech highlighted the importance of volunteerism and impact volunteers make everyday.



Jim Towey speaks at Governor's Award's Dinner on April 10, 2006.

The conference wrapped up on Tuesday, April 11 with the Ultimate Solution Reception. The reception included ice cream, chocolate, a juggler, puzzles, and a magician.

The conference was a big success due to overwhelming support of staff, volunteers, and attendees! The OFBCI is looking forward to seeing everyone again at the 2007 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism!

Meet the Award Winners of the 2006 Governor's Award for Excellence in Service and Volunteerism!

Youth



Jasmine Taylor

Seventeen year old Jasmine Taylor has done more in the last year of her life than many adults do in a lifetime," according to her nominator. In 2005, she volunteered with the South Madison Community Center, the Muncie Children's Museum, Cornerstone Center for the Arts, and the Horizon Convention Center. She has helped to coordinate volunteers for a day of service, given leadership to the youth division, and served on the local PRIDE Team speaking to kids on being drug and alcohol-free.

Community Volunteerism

Peer Information Center for Teens, Inc.

Created in 1986, the Peer Information Center for Teens mission is to help teenagers and younger peers make informed and responsible decisions about their own behaviors. It has hosted the Mix It Up at Lunch Day and the No Name Calling week. Every year, more than 100 students receive orientation in mediation skills and over 120 students receive mediation services.

Service learning

LEAPS Academy

is a small school focused on proving student academic performance through service learning. Working with the Red Cross Book Mobile to make 20 visits to schools and collecting supplies and funds for hurricane relief and holiday distribution are just a few of the projects in which that the Academy has participated.

National Service



Kyaw Soe

In addition to serving over 2600 service hours as Director of the Reading Corps for the Indiana Reading Corps in Fort Wayne, Kyaw (Joe) Soe has also worked with the local Burmese community of which he is a member. Mr. Soe often uses his own money and immeasurable time to translate important legal and educational documents for parents, tutor Burmese children by telephone and organize an annual peace fair in honor of Aung San Suu Kyi, a 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Burmese citizen. His development of the a summer preschool preparation program in 2003 to aid local Burmese children in school readiness.

Lifetime achievement



Eva Skirvin

At 95 years of age and legally blind, Eva Skirvin is known throughout the Bloomington community for her generosity. She has been a long-term member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Bloomington Salvation Army, a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, and president of Altrusa International. Currently, Ms. Skirvin spends her days unraveling yarn and rolling it into balls that can be used to make blankets for the homeless.

Faith-Based Volunteerism

Vernon Reed

In 2002, Mr. Reed assumed the unpaid responsibility of Greene County Youth Alternatives, the only alternative school in Greene County. He has been instrumental in retiring the debt of the school, relocating the school to Open Arms Christian Ministries' campus, and helping it to become self-sustaining. The school, which is now named Turning Point Education Center, has been recognized by the Indiana Department of Education as a model for alternative school programs.

AmeriCorps Member of the Month-Stephanie Price-Coaches for Success

Stephanie Price currently serves with Coaches for Success, an AmeriCorps program at Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center in Indianapolis. A senior at IUPUI majoring in biology, she is serving her second AmeriCorps term with Coaches for Success.



Stephanie Price, June AmeriCorps member of the month.

Stephanie's AmeriCorps duties include assisting with an after-school program and summer camp. She helps with homework assignments and plans and supervises after-school activities.

Stephanie's thoughts about working with AmeriCorps, "When working with children, you can sometimes see them having problems in certain areas. I had a first grade boy that

didn't seem to be able to do any of his work on his own, and (he) was always disrupting the other students. This is frustrating when you have to try and help twenty or more children at a time. It was disheartening to realize that he couldn't read or count."

"So, I made flashcards for him and began to work with him

every night after he got his homework done. We played games, but eventually he began to learn his numbers and letters. He now knows his alphabet and can do a good deal of his spelling homework without help. He is also doing better in math and is starting to catch up to his classmates. He is having far less discipline problems as well. "

"The best thing is to see that his confidence has gone up and he is trying to do his homework on his own. It shows that he is building confidence in himself and that is the main goal."

Program of the Month: Coaches for Success

"Coaches for Success" is an AmeriCorps program based out of the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center. Over 120 AmeriCorps members provide services at 15 partner sites throughout central Indiana including Boys and Girls Clubs of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Marion County Public Libraries, various community centers in Indianapolis, Indianapolis Public Schools, Decatur Township Schools, Seerley Creek Christian Church, Indy Parks



and Recreation, and Health and Hospital Corporation.

The AmeriCorps members assist with

- Alternatives to Suspension



- Peace Initiative Program
- School Readiness Program
- Summer Day Camp
- Elementary School Tutors
- Middle School Tutors
- Health Education and Assessment Program
- Volunteer Recruitment

After School Programs

Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center has served central Indiana since 1911. For more information about Mary Rigg, please visit www.maryrigg.org.

Indiana Pacers Teams Up with AmeriCorps

Recently, the Pacers Foundation donated tickets to the Pacers' play-off games. Over seventy AmeriCorps members, staff, and family members enjoyed the opportunity to attend games on April 27th and 29th. The following are comments on how much everyone enjoyed the event!

"I want to take the time to thank you and Sarah Baird for the Pacer Tickets that have been provided to the AIM program. "

Melissa White
AmeriCorps Member

"I just wanted to say thanks for the great opportunity of getting to go see a Pacer's playoff game. Due to being in college and not having a lot of money, this is something



that I don't regularly get to do. It was a lot of fun. Thanks again for letting AmeriCorps members be a part of this. "

Crystal Thomas
AmeriCorps member

"Thanks to you for this wonderful opportunity. I appreciate it-Go Pacers!"

Karl Besel
AmeriCorps Member

"Thank you very much for or-

ganizing this! I have some very happy staff people. "

Libby Gwynn
Harmony School
Bloomington, IN
Program Staff

"I am one of the lucky recipients of the Pacer's tickets that you helped provide. Just a quick note of thanks, the student I am taking has never been, I wish you could hear the excitement in his voice over the good news. This made both of our days!

Thanks again!"

Megan Rayburn
AIM, AmeriCorps Member

June 2006: Important Dates

June 1, 2006 9 AM Eastern Time – AmeriCorps Program Directors' Conference Call

June 9, 2006 PER due for period ending May 31st.

June 18 – 20, 2006 National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Seattle, Washington
www.volunteeringandservice.org



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